SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-74922; File No. SR-ICEEU-2015-009)

May 11, 2015

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Europe Limited; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Finance Procedures to Add Clearstream Banking as a Triparty Collateral Service Provider

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder² notice is hereby given that on May 5, 2015, ICE Clear Europe Limited ("ICE Clear Europe") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been primarily prepared by ICE Clear Europe. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

ICE Clear Europe proposes amendments to its Finance Procedures in order to facilitate the use by CDS Clearing Members of Clearstream Banking as a triparty collateral service provider.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, ICE Clear Europe included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. ICE Clear Europe

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
<u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to modify the Finance Procedures to allow Clearstream Banking to serve as a triparty collateral service provider for initial or original margin provided in respect of all product categories, including CDS Contracts. (Clearstream Banking currently serves as a triparty collateral service provider solely for original margin provided in respect of F&O Contracts).

Specifically, paragraph 3.1 of the Finance Procedures is revised to remove the existing restriction that Clearstream Banking may only act as a triparty collateral service provider with respect to Original Margin in respect of F&O Contracts. As a result of such change, Clearstream Banking would be permitted to act as a triparty collateral service provider for initial or original margin in respect of any product category, including the CDS product category. (The other currently authorized triparty collateral service provider, Euroclear Bank, is similarly eligible to act as such for any product category.) A correction is also made in paragraph 3.20 to provide that the specified instruction deadlines apply to triparty collateral arrangements with both Euroclear Bank and Clearstream Banking.

ICE Clear Europe believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act³ and the regulations thereunder applicable to it.

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act⁴ requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing

³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions and to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible.

The proposed amendments are intended to extend the Clearing House's existing triparty collateral service to allow optional use by Clearing Members of Clearstream Banking as a triparty collateral service provider with respect to initial and original margin for the CDS (and FX) product categories, in addition to its existing authorization for the F&O product category. The amendments do not otherwise change the substantive terms of the service. ICE Clear Europe views Clearstream Banking as substantially similar to Euroclear Bank, the current service provider, from an operational and risk perspective and otherwise in terms of the safeguarding of funds and securities. Clearstream Banking is currently authorized to act as a triparty collateral service provider with respect to original margin for the F&O product category, and based on experience in that product category ICE Clear Europe believes that use of Clearstream Banking can be appropriately extended to the other product categories. As a result, ICE Clear Europe believes that the proposed rule change will not adversely affect the safeguarding of securities or funds in the custody or control of ICE Clear Europe or for which it is responsible, and are therefore consistent with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F).⁵

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

ICE Clear Europe does not believe the proposed rule change would have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change will provide additional flexibility to Clearing Members by permitting the use, on a voluntary basis, of Clearstream Banking as a triparty collateral service provider for original or initial margin for all product categories. The proposed rule change will otherwise not affect the terms or conditions of any cleared contract or the standards or requirements for participation in or use of the Clearing House. Accordingly, the proposed rule change should not, in the Clearing House's view, affect the availability of clearing, access to clearing services or the costs of clearing for clearing members or other market participants.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others</u>

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received. ICE Clear Europe will notify the Commission of any written comments received by ICE Clear Europe.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission</u>
Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-ICEEU-2015-009 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ICEEU-2015-009. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m.

and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of ICE Clear Europe and on ICE Clear Europe's website at https://www.theice.com/clear-europe/regulation. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ICEEU-2015-009 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 6

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

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⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).